

Message Text

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72

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 FEA-01

ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

OMB-01 PM-03 USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04

TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01 PRS-01 /134 W

----- 061506

R 051419Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9617

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 5263

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, XX

SUBJECT: OIL DRILLING ACTIVITY WORLDWIDE

BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

1. IN COVERSATION WITH EMBOFF JUNE 4, GEORGE H. THOMAS, VICE
PRESIDENT AND EASTERN HEMISPHERE MANAGER OF THE OFFSHORE COMPANY
(MAJOR U.S. DILLING CONTRACTOR), SAID DRILLING ACTIVITY IS
DECLINING IN MANY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING IRAN, SAUDI ARABIA,
NIGERIA, INDONESIA, AND CHINA SEA. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO ALMOST
UNIVERSAL TENDENCY OF GOVERNHNHTS TO INHIBIT INVESTMENT BY OIL
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COMPANIES THROUGH EXCESSIVE TAXATION AND REGULATION. HE CITED

ONLY ABU DHABI AND EGYPT AS BRIGHT SPOTS FOR HIS COMPANY'S
ACTIVITIES.

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2. FYI, THE DISCOVERER 1, FLOATING DRILLSHIP OWNED BY THE
OFFSHORE COMPANY, HAD BLOWOUT LAST WEEK WHILE DRILLING IN
290 FEET OF WATER FIFTY MILES FROM NIGERIAN COAST FOR JAPAN
PETROLEUM CO. (NIGERIA) LTD. (JAPEX GROUP). EXPLOSION LEFT
800 TONS OF SAND ON DECK OF SHIP, BUT THE EXCAPING GAS
FORTUNATELY DID NOT BURN, AND THE HOLE CRATERED LEAVING THE
SEABOTTOM TWO THOUSAND FEET DEEPER THAN BEFORE. CREW WORKED
HEROICLY TO SAVE TWO DIVERS WHO WERE ON BOTTOM WHEN
BLOWOUT OCCURRED, AND THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES. DRILLING
SHOULD RESUME IN SIX WEEKS.

3. THE METEROITE, DRILLING TENDER SALVAGED FROM SIMILAR
BLOWOUT LAST YEAR (LAGOS 3571), IS NOW UNDER TOW FROM NIGERIA
TO RED SEA WHERE IT WILL BE ONE OF FIRST COMMERCIAL CRAFT TO
NEGOTIATE THE REOPENEDSUEZ CANAL AND WILL THEREAFTER BE
EMPLOYED IN THE OFFSHORE COMPANY'S EGYPTIAN OPERATIONS.

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EASUM

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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